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Quality Rated welcomes First Approved Child Care Program

***Justus Kidz Family Day Care in Buford, Georgia, receives
Quality Rated Seal of Approval and Two-Star Rating***

ATLANTA, Ga., (September 26, 2012) – When she was only six years old, Linda Davis knew she wanted to teach young children. Today she is the proud owner and director of the first family day care home to be recognized for exceeding Georgia’s childcare licensing requirements.



Justus Kidz in Buford received the first quality rating awarded by Quality Rated, the state’s new voluntary system to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education programs. Similar to rating systems for restaurants and hotels, Quality Rated identifies early care and education programs that meet a set of standards exceeding the state’s minimum licensing requirements and awards them a maximum three-star rating. Participating providers become

eligible for technical assistance, equipment and curriculum as they achieve higher levels of quality.

“In high school, I took a class that allowed me to work part-time in a child care center and continue my education,” said Ms. Davis, who has more than 30 years’ experience in child care. “After graduating from high school I got married and had two charming sons. When my youngest son was one and half years old I decided to go back to school and receive my Associates Degree in Child Development. Subsequently, I continued on to get a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management and my Masters in Child, Family and Community Services.”



“We were pleased to see Justus Kidz apply for Quality Rated back in May, and now less than five months later to see them officially approved is even more exciting,” said DECAL Commissioner Bobby Cagle. “As the first program in Georgia to be Quality Rated, Ms. Davis and the children and parents she serves should be very proud of their initial two-star award. And she will be in good company. With more than 950

centers voluntarily enrolling so far this year, more child care programs will be rated very soon.”

Ms. Davis said she welcomed the program’s assistance in becoming the best at providing top notch service. “Quality Rated is a program that influences child care providers to go beyond Georgia licensing standards,” she explained. “My main goal has always been to provide a high quality educational program and receive high marks on my licensing reports. Participating in Quality Rated encourages me to keep doing what I have done in the past to educate the children and keep educating myself.”

Throughout the process, Ms. Davis worked with Andrea McFarland, an Infant and Toddler Specialist with DECAL. “I feel like my main role was cheerleader and editor when it came to actually submitting the portfolio,” McFarland explained. “She (Ms. Davis) had the knowledge and information; I just encouraged her to go through with it. There were a lot of eager and anxious butterflies when we hit the submit button. We kept in close contact until we heard that the portfolio had been accepted and maintained that super close contact until the process was finished. It is a great sense of accomplishment to know that I helped a provider become Quality Rated.”

In July 2013, families will be able to verify if a provider is voluntarily agreeing to meet higher standards by participating in Quality Rated and to see the quality rating they have achieved by visiting the Bright from the Start website at www.dec.state.ga.us.

For her part, Ms. Davis hopes to achieve a three-star rating by July, 2013. “I hope former students can in turn bring their children and future generations of their families to experience the care and educational standards provided by Justus Kidz.”

Child care programs may learn more about Quality Rated and sign up for a Quality Rated orientation session sponsored by the local child care resource and referral agency at: <https://www.cnp2000.dec.state.ga.us/QualityRatedTraining/Splash.asp> or visit the Quality Rated webpage at <http://www.qualityrated.dec.state.ga.us> where eligible programs can begin the application process. For answers to questions about Quality Rated, call the Quality Rated Help Desk at 1-855-800-7747.

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the child care and early education needs of Georgia’s children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia’s Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers Georgia’s Childcare and Parent Services (CAPS) program, federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs.

The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.state.ga.us.